GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2534
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2002
LIST OF ESSENTIAL DRUGS
MOHAN RAWALE

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a list of Essential Drugs at National level has been prepared;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether WHO`s list of 260 essential drugs is sufficient to take care of the health problems in the country; and

(d) if not, the steps taken/being taken for early preparation of list of drugs and its implementation?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) & (b) The National Essential Drugs List (NEDL) was published by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 1996 and contains 279 drugs.

(c) & (d) The Essential Drug lists including that of WHO are revised from time to time.The basic concept is that these medicines are those that satisfy the priority health care needs of the population and are intended to be available within the context of functioning health system.

The model list is meant as a guide for the development of institutional essential lists and not designed as a global standard. The listed medicine is seen as a representative example for a group of clinically equivalent medicines with wide experience of use.